**English 6**

2014-2015

*“That is part of the beauty of all literature. You discover that your longings are universal longings, that you’re not lonely and isolated from anyone. You belong.” —F. Scott Fitzgerald*

In the quote above, F. Scott Fitzgerald clearly summarizes one of the most powerful and exciting components of English. Over the course of the year, we will embark on an exciting pathway that will allow us to begin uncovering the meaning behind Fitzgerald’s quote and his message about the importance of literature. This class is about making connections between all parts of a literary piece—from the strength of an individual word on a page to the greater theme of a novel—to our own lives and our own loyalties.

In 6th grade English, students will continue to sharpen, deepen, and strengthen their abilities to read, interpret, analyze, and critique increasingly complex short stories, poems, novels, and literary nonfiction. In addition, students will further develop their abilities to craft narrative, argumentative, and informational texts while continuing to work towards mastering the conventions of the English language. Sixth graders will also practice public speaking and active listening skills regularly.

**Daily Supplies**

Students are required to arrive to class with the following every day:

* A composition Book/Notebook
* A binder (with 3 dividers) and loose-leaf paper
* A writing utensil
* Their homework planner/agenda
* The required class readings and an independent reading book (can be checked out from the class library)

**Grade Breakdown:**

* *Classwork & Homework* (30%)

Select classwork and homework assignments will be collected for a grade.

* *Tests & Quizzes* (25%)

This category includes reading quizzes, grammar assessments, and traditional multiple choice and short answer quizzes on class and subject material. Students will be given advanced notice before every test or quiz.

* *Projects & Papers* (25%)

This category can also be termed “summative” or “long term” assessments and is made up of long term, multi-draft writing assignments; formal speeches; and formal, lengthy group projects that are normally completed at the end of a unit.

* *Participation & Preparation* (20%)

In keeping with the mission of WLPCS, all students are expected to participate daily in class. Participation, dialogue, and actively engaging with class material are all critical to learning. Preparation includes coming to class with all required supplies and with the mindset to engage fully in the activities for the day. Students will be graded weekly on their participation.

**Homework Policy**

* Daily Homework: Late homework will **not** be accepted except in the case of illness, an excused appointment, or significant family events. Failure to submit homework results in “0” points for that homework assignment.
* Long-Term HW: For every day that a long term paper, project, or assignment is late, the letter grade will be lowered by **one** full letter grade.

Please know that assigned homework is both important and not only required for student growth and learning, but also is many times necessary for success in the next day’s class. If a student gets “stuck” on an assignment or if there is a problem with the daily assignment, please do not hesitate to email me and we will work through the individual situation together to find a solution.

**Class Expectations**

The following four expectations will be held consistently throughout the year:

* Respect for **Self**
* Respect for **Others**
* Respect for the **Right to Learn**
* Respect for **Property**

I expect a lot from English 6 students because I know they can give a lot. Officially in the middle school environment and role models for a younger class, 6th graders will be held to all behavior guidelines explained in the Code of Conduct in the Washington Latin Family Handbook. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in English 6 as it interrupts the learning of the whole class.

I do realize, though, that some days are better than others and a Monday morning in the middle of February may not feel the same as the first Monday of the school year. If a student realizes her or she needs to take a reset/quick break, he or she can let me know and that effort and self-awareness will be applauded and honored and not condemned while we work *together* to make class a success that day. Open communication and self-awareness are critical to the functioning of the class and also to continued personal development in middle school.

Finally, I expect English 6 students to take risks. Raise your hand and think through your ideas, even if they are not right on track. That is the point of school!

**Contacting Me/Questions**

Thank you for taking the time to read this syllabus! If you have any questions, concerns, comments, or just want to talk further about the class, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am readily available by email and am eager to connect and talk about how to make this a successful year for all English 6 students!

Best,

Sasha Davis

sdavis@latinpcs.org

http://wlpcsmiddleschool.wikispaces.com/Davis